

## AP Spanish Language Summer Activities CCHS 2024-2025

Welcome to AP Spanish Language and Culture! For those of you that don't know me, my name is Carmen Garmilla, and I am from Mexico. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Human Communication Therapy (Special Education), and a Master's Degree in Applied Linguistics in the Teaching of Spanish as a Foreign Language. I got my AP teaching certificate in 2012, became recertified in 2015, and I have been part of the Experienced AP Spanish Language and Culture Summer Institute. This will be my tenth-year teaching AP Spanish Language and Culture at CCHS.

The AP Spanish Language Exam is a 3-4 hours **skill-based** exam that will test your abilities to **communicate** and your **proficiency** in Spanish. It will evaluate your ability to **read, write, listen to, and speak authentic Spanish language** in action. It is not a knowledge-based exam like most other AP exams. You will be integrating all four skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

This document is not only a summer assignment, it is developed to allow you to practice these skills over the summer, as to retain the knowledge that you have acquired over the past years, and to **keep doing it along the school year also**. The assignment is the bare minimum, and I encourage you to go above and beyond. Basically, look for what you like to do in your spare time, and find the Spanish-speaking equivalent!

You will be required to do **assignments** over the summer, and also you will have suggestions to do that won't be counted as assignments but are **highly encouraged**. The assignments will be **graded** and entered as first quarter grades, so they will impact your success in the course. **If you fail to submit your assignments on time, you will be removed from the class, unless you have talked to me previously, as I mentioned in the meeting.**

I understand that summers can be busy. I do not want that you spend hours on these assignments the last four days of summer. I do expect you to practice your Spanish regularly and improve your skills over the summer. **It is important that you make sure you do activities throughout the summer**, especially since this document is designed to provide **continual use of the language all summer long**, which in turn will directly impact your performance in the course. The due dates for the activities are the last day of June, July or August 20<sup>th</sup>, which is the day before the first day of school. I don't want to interfere with your summer plans, but I recommend you doing a **calendar** and spreading them, so you have a continuous practice during these weeks. You must try to have **daily immersion** in the language.

### **Listening Activities**

AP Spanish Test is **60% listening**. Please keep your ears exposed to the language, no matter if you understand it or not. Let the language in!

- **Watch** television or movies in Spanish: YouTube, Netflix, Disney Plus, Televisión Española (<http://www.rtve.es>), FORMED (<https://formed.org/>) (all Catholic Churches have a code to view FORMED in their bulletin) are good options also. Those movies and TV programs that you watch 1,000 times when you were little, or your favorite TV shows right now. You

can find almost every TV show in Spanish. All DVDs can be turned into Spanish, and you can also select the Spanish subtitles, so you listen and read at the same time (both in Spanish). The Public Library is a good option also. You can order them online and borrow them for a couple of days.

- **Listen** to the radio in Spanish and create a play list with Spanish music. If you have Spotify, you can find music there. Listen to songs over and over again. Look for the lyrics online and memorize them.

You probably will not understand everything, but over time your understanding will increase. Another option is to watch a show, then pick a 3-5 minute segment and keep rewinding it, working with it until you get most of what is going on. You might like working with music videos or commercials when you do this at first. (You can find these on YouTube)

These are some websites with lots of audio activities; they also have comprehension activities that go along with each and have a script to read along while you listen (you can also hide the script). Some sites also have the option to download to your iPhone and listen. On the opening page of some of the sites, you will find a pull-down window option for the level of speech to listen to. They go from beginners to advanced level.

<http://zachary-jones.com/zambombazo/>  
<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/spe/index.html>

In the last website, after you select a topic from the categories to listen to (choose Intermediate-A, Intermediate-B, or Advanced-A), there is a box on the right (options) you will find vocabulary help, useful phrases and grammar practices to accompany your choice. Then you can listen to a series of people talking about the same topic. Once that you choose the video, in the upper right-hand corner, there are three boxes. If you hit the S button, you can read along with the speaker. The E button gives you the English translation. If you hit the N button, you can watch and listen to the speaker without any text appearing. Try practicing first with all text turned off. You KNOW you will read along if the text is there! Feel free to play the clips more than once. At this point, you are just getting your ear attuned. Look at the faces as they speak. Look at the translations ONLY as a last resort. Keep track of the tasks you listen to. Have fun!

## **Writing**

Writing will help you organize your ideas and increase your ability to express yourself without having to speak. Is a great preparation for speaking!

- **ASSIGNMENT:** Keep a diary (Use loose leaf paper and keep it in the binder that you will use for Spanish next year). Write something once a week. It doesn't have to be long essays. Two or three lines will do it! One option is to time yourself for 2 minutes. The goal is to write often, so don't wait until the last two days and write as if you wrote every day. Be responsible and honest. If you didn't write every week THAT'S FINE!
- **ASSIGNMENT:** Canvas Discussion Forum. I will open an assignment to use as a chat room. There are 3 different assignments post on Canvas to make it easier. Each of you must enter 7 posts:
  1. **In June-** write **ONE** post. Start off by introducing yourself, likes, dislikes, interests, hobbies, etc. Get to know the other people by reading their posts.

2. **In July-** Write **ONE** post telling us something that happened to you or something that you read or saw in the news. Write **TWO** comments, after reading two of your classmates' post, and comment about them. Do this with two different posts and two different classmates.
3. **In August-** Write **ONE** post telling us something that happened to you or something that you read or saw in the news. Write **TWO** comments, after reading two of your classmates' post, and comment about them. Do this with two different posts and two different classmates.

I encourage you to write essays as frequently as possible, because you will be able to introduce yourself to more complex modes of grammatical construction before you try them out verbally. It could be that you write from your listening or speaking, write poetry, an interesting article that you read and want to write a summary or reaction about, write emails/letters to friends and family, etc.

### **Reading**

Reading will take time. Set time aside and look up in the dictionary the words that you need to know in order to understand the text (ONLY USE <https://www.wordreference.com/> ). It is essential to do some reading and to be exposed to Spanish publications.

- **ASSIGNMENT:**
- a) **“Cajas de Cartón”, by Francisco Jiménez-** Read the entire book. Please read the book in Spanish, I know you can cheat and read it in English, but you are just damaging your learning. Be honest! You can buy it from previous AP Language and Culture students, purchase it at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Books a Million, etc. **If I suspect you used a translator (like Google Translate), you will give yourself a 0, and you will be sent to Honors Council. YOU WILL NEED TO BRING YOUR BOOK WITH YOUR NAME ON IT THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, AND LEAVE IT IN MY CLASS!**

**This will count as a test grade for your first quarter. You should:**

- ❖ Handwrite notes about every chapter: characters, main topic, main events, etc.
  - ❖ Bring your book with notes the first day of school with your name written on it.
  - ❖ The first week of school you will write **IN CLASS** an **argumentative essay** about the book. An argumentative essay is NOT a summary, it's writing your argumentative opinion about a topic in the book, and sustaining your point of view, either agreeing or disagreeing with the author. I will give a different topic to each class. If you read the book, you will do great on the test.
- **Read** newspaper articles, magazines. You'll be able to acquaint yourself with different writing styles, vocabulary, and accents. St. Gabriel's Church, Compare Foods, and some Library branches and other stores carry some local newspapers in Spanish. Grab a copy and select some articles to read. They have every topic on it. Also, most newspapers and magazines have online versions that you can check. Pick up a country and look for online news. Here is a web site that can help you find articles <http://www.onlinenewspapers.com>
  - Another great way to practice reading and understanding is with **children's books**. Here is a website where you can find lots of them, and maybe your favorite fairy tales. <http://www.guiainfantil.com/servicios/Cuentos/cuentos.htm>

- You can **practice grammar and vocabulary** by using these reading resources  
<http://www.bbc.com/mundo>  
<https://news.un.org/es/>

### **Watching**

As I mentioned before, listening practice is vital for AP, and when you add the visual component, it can help you understand more.

I have already mentioned watching television, newscasts, or movies, or listen to the radio in Spanish. I have attached a list of movies that you can watch.

### **Practice**

It will help you with grammar and vocabulary.

1. Review all the Grammar and Vocabulary that you saw this school year. Your books have resources, and you are still able to access it during the summer. I will also share with you two documents in Google Drive:
  - All the grammar from Honors III and Honors IV
  - Notas importantes para la clase de AP Español (Link en Canvas)
2. Work on Summer Vocabulary. Create a list of vocabulary as you do your readings, so it can become part of your language.
3. Visit websites like countries' tourist bureau, local museums and sites, Google Earth's.
4. Do activities on <https://studyspanish.com/> or <https://aprenderespanol.org/> Go to [www.studyspanish.com](http://www.studyspanish.com) and sign up for a free account. You will never be expected to pay for any activities or registration- ONLY do the free activities, quizzes.
5. An AP Spanish student **should almost master** the tenses listed below. You should know how to form each tense as well as when to use each one. I suggest doing a document with the basic information for each one. You may or may have not seen them all last year, so we will have a review during the school year, but it will be fast paced.

Present Tense
Preterit Tense
Imperfect Tense
Present Perfect
Pluscuamperfecto (Past Perfect)
Ser vs. Estar
Progressive Tenses (Present/Imperfect/Future, etc.)
Present Subjunctive
Present Perfect Subjunctive

Imperfect Subjunctive
Pluperfect Subjunctive
Commands
Other Uses of Subjunctive
Future/Future Perfect
Conditional/Conditional Perfect
Por vs. Para
“Si” Clauses

The Canvas page has a section for Grammar with documents for all these topics. These sites are also good for general grammar practice:

<http://www.conjuguemos.com>

<http://personal.colby.edu/~bknelson/SLC/index.php>

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/~eyepes/newgr/ats/>

<http://www.ver-taal.com>

**ASSIGNMENT:** You need to buy the textbook “Una Vez Más”. The direct link for Saavas is in the summer section on the school’s website. **DON’T EVEN TRY TO PURCHASE THE ANSWER KEY!!!!!!**

For each month (June, July, and August) you will have assigned pages. Review the material and do the exercises without cheating. Sign your name with a color pen, take a picture and upload the picture/pictures in the Canvas assignment.

### **Speak:**

It is the least favorite part for some of you, but a necessary one to present the AP exam.

1. This could sound crazy, but speak to whatever you could find: yourself, walls, the mirror, and random things. Every time you can it helps to give you confidence and to acclimate yourself to the sound of the language. When you are talking to yourself either aloud or in your mind, try to do it in Spanish.
2. Speak with native speakers. Find somebody to talk to as often as you can. If you have native speakers at home, start today! Speak Spanish with family, friends, friends of a friend, etc. You may be surprised at how many people in this area speak Spanish.
3. Seek out opportunities to listen to “live” Spanish. There are community cultural events, local churches that have Mass, activities and services in Spanish and local service organizations that provide services to the Spanish-speaking community. You can help others while helping yourself.
4. **ASSIGNMENT:** Turn in 3 videos in which you are facing the camera, because you **ARE NOT READING!** You will find each assignment on Canvas, one for each month, and you need to drop your video on the folder there. They should be spontaneous, and not written prompts. If I suspect you have memorized or are reading a script, you will get a zero.
  - **In June-** Introduce yourself: Who are you? What are your interests? Who do you know that will be taking AP Spanish next year? What are your strengths? and What is most difficult for you? (2 minutes)

- **In July-** Record an update of how your summer has been going (2 minutes), what's new, what you think about what's been happening over the summer in general (from the news that you've been reading & listening to throughout the summer).
- **In August-** Final message for your summer. How was it? Did you do everything you wanted/needed to do? Would have you change anything about your summer? Are you looking forward to return to school? Why? (2 minutes)

\*Additional website/resources:

<http://www.notesinspanish.com/category/intermediate-spanish-podcast/> podcasts, activities

<http://elpais.com> podcasts, videos, news, sports, programming from Spain

<http://www.nationalspanishexam.org> activities and practice

<http://www.elmundo.es> newspaper from Spain

<https://spanish.yabla.com> videos, podcasts, can slow speaking down & read-along with the text. You can join the e-mail list for free, and they will send you videos that you can watch.

<http://www.wordreference.com> Spanish-English dictionary

<http://spanish.about.com/od/writtenspanish/> great support for writing in Spanish. Rules for punctuation, capitalization, etc. are included here along with helpful vocabulary lists.